

Report to the Community



A letter from Chairman Dr. Mitchel D. Livingston National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Cincinnati

The National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Cincinnati (NCCJGC) is proud to partner with the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) in several community relations initiatives including the publication of this first-ever *Report to the Community*.

The Collaborative Agreement of April, 2002, called for the CPD to initiate building and maintaining stronger relationships between the Department and the communities it serves. In an effort to help move the Collaborative Agreement forward, the NCCJGC elicited support from two of Cincinnati's corporate citizens, Procter & Gamble and Federated Department Stores, to make generous contributions to NCCJGC which would then be dedicated to the CPD's community relations effort. This *Report to the Community* is one of those initiatives, fully funded by private contributions.

NCCJGC, whose mission includes promoting understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education, has worked with the CPD for several years. NCCJGC has witnessed many positive actions taken by the CPD to make the Greater Cincinnati community stronger and safer. These activities seldom generate headline news, so they often go unnoticed.

Through this *Report to the Community*, we hope more Cincinnatians will have a better sense of the dedication and personal commitment each and every officer and their leadership has in performing their jobs with integrity and pride. On behalf of the NCCJGC Board of Directors, we are pleased to sponsor this *Report to the Community*. 🏠



Letter from Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr. City of Cincinnati, Chief of Police

On behalf of the Cincinnati Police Department and the men and women who serve the City of Cincinnati, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the National Conference for Community and Justice and to Procter & Gamble and Federated Department Stores, for providing us with the resources to enable us to publish our first *Report to the Community*.

The nature of policing is such that conflict and confrontation between police officers and those who choose to break our laws are what we are most known for. What is not as well known is that police officers are also your friends and neighbors. We coach teams, attend church, belong to parent-teacher organizations, win awards and contribute in many positive ways to the quality of life we all enjoy in Greater Cincinnati. Equally important, we are well-trained in policing, and we learn and employ the newest technology that supports our work. We are dedicated, loyal and hardworking. All of us enjoy interacting with those we are sworn to "protect and serve."



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The *Report to the Community* contains factual articles about some controversial community issues like the use of TASERs, the use of force, and the efforts initiated by the CPD in fulfilling the terms of the Collaborative Agreement. It also contains information about the accomplishments of individual police officers and things they enjoy when not in uniform. It provides information about Community Problem Oriented Policing (CPOP) a bold and important initiative which calls for neighborhood leaders and police officers to collaborate and solve problems together.

We ask that you read this *Report* thoroughly. It is our hope that two outcomes will result. First, that the articles you read in this publication will give you a better insight into the quality of your police department and its commitment to serving you. Second, that you will join us in making Greater Cincinnati stronger and safer. Our doors are open. We invite you to partner with us through CPOP and other community-police initiatives in making a difference for all of us. 🏠

Residents and Police Work Together

CPOP Alliance Works to Create Better Neighborhoods

By Laura Carr

Cincinnati residents and the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) are using a methodology known as Community Problem Oriented Policing (CPOP) that is bringing about better, safer neighborhoods throughout the City.

"CPOP is an outgrowth of the Collaborative Agreement in which the City of Cincinnati, the CPD and the community agreed to adopt problem solving and prevention as the principal strategies for addressing crime and disorder issues," says Executive Manager Greg Baker, CPD Police Relations.

In 1990, civilian volunteers began working with the CPD to address quality of life concerns. Since 1993, they have used the "SARA" problem solving methodology in reshaping how the CPD handles various issues.

How SARA helps

SARA stands for Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment. This process identifies situations of concern and develops strategies for solving them in as positive a manner as reasonably possible.

A "problem" is defined as two or more incidents that are similar in nature, that cause (or are capable of causing) harm, and that the local residents and business owners want police help in resolving.

"There are often similarities among different neighborhoods that the SARA method enables us to address in a consistent, systematic manner," comments Baker.

"For example, how one neighborhood's CPOP team deals with loud noises and music can be the starting point for discussion in another neighborhood. The SARA method allows us to create a 'best practice' model that can be implemented anywhere in the City," Baker says.

Community Police Partnering Center

In 2003, the Community Police Partnering Center opened to expand the



This Avondale CPOP team tackled a big job with enthusiasm, doing a major clean-up of an abandoned service station on Rockdale Avenue. The group picked up and hauled away mounds of debris and litter that had accumulated on the property. A demolition crew later removed the building itself which had become a hazard. The owner has made the land available for use by the Avondale Community Council (ACC) and it has become the site of several successful events for the neighborhood. In the front row sitting/squatting (left to right) are Travis Williams, Renard Byrd and Sergeant Julie Shearer. Standing in the middle row (left to right) are Beth Stautberg, Brenda Grier, Madelyn Moxley and Cassandra Robinson. In the rear (left to right) are Officer Ladon Laney, Sean Kelly, Robert Pace, Patrick Smith, Reggie Jackson, Michael Cash, David Pepper, ACC President Thaddeus Brown, Jr., and area resident "Slim."

Photo by Melvin Grier, who also participated in this project.

partnership between community teams and the CPD. The Partnering Center has actively worked with community members and CPD officers to develop and put into place effective strategies to reduce crime and disorder. These strategies also help facilitate positive interaction and increase trust between CPD officers and the neighborhoods they serve.

Citizens on Patrol (COP) began in 1997 in three test neighborhoods. It is now an integral part of the Partnering Center's outreach program, serving 22 of the City's 52 neighborhoods, with an additional unit patrolling Cincinnati's parks. These trained volunteers patrol their neighborhoods concentrating on identified problem areas and acting as the eyes and ears of police.

"Community volunteers deter crime by their mere presence and visibility in a neighborhood," says COP Coordinator Lieutenant Larry Powell. "These indi-

viduals know where the problem areas are and are often respected leaders who want to make their neighborhoods a safer place to live, work and play."

All volunteers must complete a basic 12-hour class and an 8-hour ride-along with a police officer. They are also required to attend additional on-going training as long as they remain a volunteer in the program.

Once trained, team members use police radios and cell phones to communicate directly with officers and report crimes or inappropriate behaviors in progress. By locating and reporting issues that contribute to criminal activity, these teams are able to fix the proverbial "broken window" in a community.

COP volunteers are used for special City-wide events such as the Labor Day Riverfest fireworks, the Cincinnati Black Family Reunion, and Oktoberfest. They also offer support during other local events.

The Collaborative Agreement

"The Collaborative Agreement, through the collective efforts and commitment of parties to the agreement - the City of Cincinnati, American Civil Liberties Union, and the Fraternal Order of Police - is an opportunity to build relationships to benefit the entire City," says Community Police Partnering Center Executive Director Rick Biehl.

"The challenges facing police in promoting safe neighborhoods is directly affected by degree and quality of community involvement. We absolutely value citizen-led initiatives to help us address crime and disorder in our neighborhoods. We rely on the involvement of neighborhood residents to help us identify and address open air drug markets, disorderly youth, gun violence, assaults on members of the community, theft and loitering," he adds.

How to improve your neighborhood

"Resident involvement can be as simple as calling Crime Stoppers to report an incident, or as active as going through a SARA training program," Biehl says. "We want to empower people to make smart choices. The value of

community involvement is that neighbors know the local culture and resources and can help the police in fixing the problems.

"The CPOP teams and the Community Police Partnering Center are ways to transform a community. While one person can make a difference and one call can make a difference, it is the collective efforts of community members that is most often the vehicle for improving community vitality and safety. This has been realized in neighborhoods where there are active CPOP teams that have produced such outcomes" states Biehl.

He offers several ways residents and business owners or managers can get more involved in neighborhood safety. They include:

- Identify neighborhood skills and talents and use them to improve the quality of life in the community;
- Plan local events that are positive, non-confrontational and embrace the diversity that makes each area unique, as well as promote community cohesion;
- Take back your neighborhood! Help suppress negative influences by serving as a volunteer at a community center, school or place of worship or by joining a CPOP team;
- Identify local cultural norms and seek the support of "grassroots" leaders who are well known, as well as

well respected, in developing responses that defend the community norms when there is a safety problem;

- Learn from and model successful community/police partnerships such as those found in Lower Price Hill and Northside; and
- Take part in police activities that are open to the community. Two excellent ones are the Citizens Police Academy and police "ride-along" tours.

"The last Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. until noon, CPOP has a live talk show on WDBZ, 1230 AM" says Biehl. "We've had discussions about CPOP, youth activities, gun violence and other topics of importance to the community."

"The topics are from interested listeners and pulled from today's headlines. The residents of Cincinnati and the police are all looking for honesty, candor and heartfelt involvement. CPOP and the Community Police Partnering Center are easy ways for residents to get involved and make a difference in their communities," concludes Biehl. 🏠

Local residents share their thoughts on CPOP

Prencis Wilson, Madisonville

CPOP has helped break down the barriers between the police and citizens. It certainly changed my whole way of looking at things. Now I feel like there is nothing we can't accomplish, police and citizens, working together! Our Neighborhood Officer, Dwayne Dawson, always has a lot to add to whatever we come up with. He works on the crime and we work to prevent the problems that may make a crime possible.

Dorothy Harris, College Hill

CPOP makes the community interact better with the officers because we have a better understanding of what their job is and how we can help them make our neighborhood

better, safer. It has become a symbiotic relationship.

Ben Pipkin, Kennedy Heights

The show of both community and of police support was critical. We'd have 25 people show up to a meeting. Mike Cureton, who was the District 2 commander, came to our meetings regularly. That is a lot of interest.

Amos Robinson, College Hill

CPOP enabled different areas to share solutions to common problems and to see and appreciate one another as people.

Is CPOP in your neighborhood yet?

There are currently 20 active teams:

Avondale	Madisonville
Bond Hill (2)	North Avondale
Carthage	Northside
College Hill	Pleasant Ridge
East Walnut Hills	Roselawn
Evanston (2)	Walnut Hills (2)
Kennedy Heights	West End
Lower Price Hill	

The following 18 neighborhoods are developing CPOP teams:

Camp Washington	Mt. Washington
CBD/Riverfront	North Fairmount
Corryville	Over-the-Rhine
Clifton/University/Fairview	Pendleton
East End	Price Hill
Hartwell	South Cumminsville
Millvale	South Fairmount
Mt. Airy	Westwood
	Winton Hills

For more information on CPOP or how you might help out, please contact:

*Lieutenant Larry Powell (CPD),
513-352-2972*

*Rick Biehl (Partnering Center),
513-559-5450*

*or send an email to
CPOPcenter@gcul.org*

Use of TASERs decreases injuries

By Laura Carr

When Cincinnati Police Chief Thomas Streicher and former Cincinnati City Manager Valerie Lemmie approved the purchase of TASERs™ it was with the safety of both Cincinnati's police officers and the public in mind. According to the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD), TASERs have reduced the need for police officers to have physical, potentially violent, encounters with resistive suspects.

The CPD began using TASERs X26 in 2004. Since then, TASERs have been deployed 1,041 times (through September 2005) to subdue suspects thereby lessening injuries to officers or those they seek to apprehend. The TASER is one more tool police officers can turn to if it becomes necessary to use force.

Effective, less intrusive

"If the mere threat of having a TASER used is enough to stop a crime, then I'm happy with that outcome," says Chief Streicher. "No police officer ever starts a workday with the intention of hurting someone," he states. "The TASER provides our officers with the least intrusive, safest and most effective method of subduing a combative suspect."

Chief Streicher knows what he is talking about. When the City of Cincinnati was considering the purchase of TASERs, Chief Streicher was an early volunteer to experience the effects of a TASER.

"I wanted to know how the TASER felt," he says. "I wasn't going to have police officers on the streets using TASERs without the full knowledge of how they work and the impact they have on the person. I am confident that TASERs offer a quickly effective and relatively safe means of stopping violent confrontations."

"To date, our officers have used TASERs to subdue more than 50 suspects who were armed with deadly weapons."

The CPD's successful integration of TASERs as a means to subdue a suspect is replicated in 8,000 cities and 45 countries. The new technology has become part of a growing trend in law enforcement. The equipment has a proven track record of saving lives and reducing injuries to officers and suspects.

Comparing the last 12 months before TASERs were used with the first 12 months of their use, injuries to police officers are down 56%; injuries to suspects are down 35%.

The safest alternative

The word is clearly on the street about TASERs. They hurt, but they do not kill. In many cases police officers can end a confrontation before it escalates into a more dangerous situation for the police and the person(s) they are trying to apprehend.

"We are convinced TASERs are the safest alternative in a use of force situation and the statistics in cities where TASERs are being used bear out our findings. TASER use can save lives when deadly use of force may have been the only other option," says Streicher.

The CPD closely monitors all TASER deployments. There have been no deaths directly related to their usage, according to Executive Manager S. Gregory Baker, CPD Police Relations. Baker also serves as the CPD Compliance Coordinator for the U. S. Department of Justice Memorandum of Agreement and Collaborative Agreement.

Baker says, "Use of force, as a whole, has declined since the deployment of TASERs. Physical harm to prisoners and suspects was down 35 percent in the first full year of TASER use, compared to the last full year without TASERs. Physical harm to officers was down 56 percent over the same periods of time. TASERs have created a different environment for subduing those engaged in criminal activity. We have fewer injuries and more cooperation from persons who

do not want a police officer to apply a TASER," he adds.

The CPD's use of force statistics and the City of Cincinnati's Independent Monitor's review of use of force incidents clearly demonstrate that TASERs have substituted for other types of force, such as physical force, impact weapons and chemical spray. Using a TASER can eliminate the need for a police officer to close the distance between himself or herself and the suspect. The Independent Monitor has noted that TASERs are an alternative use of force method along with de-escalating the situation, verbal instructions or using other arrest control techniques.

How TASERs work

The X-26 TASER is an electronic control device that is a non-lethal force alternative used to assist officers in the performance of their duties. The TASER is designed to temporarily immobilize a non-compliant, violent or potentially violent person.

Each TASER has an internal tracking chip. The chip stores the time and date the trigger was engaged. Not considered a firearm, it uses compressed nitrogen to launch two tiny barbs or probes attached to two 21-foot wires. When these probes make contact with an assailant or his or her clothing, the TASER sends powerful electronic pulses through the wires, which instantly incapacitates the assailant for five seconds without causing any permanent injury. Since TASERs immediately immobilize a person, minor injuries could result, particularly from a fall to the ground.

Volts versus Amperage

The TASER uses a simple high-energy, "shaped" pulse of 50,000 volts to penetrate a subject's clothing and skin. In comparison, a static charge from walking on carpet and touching another person produces an average of 35,000 volts.

Amperage (amps), not voltage, is what produces serious physical harm. Contact with a common household wall outlet produces 15 to 30 amps. The TASER produces 0.0021 of one amp.

Officer Injuries from arrests/assaults

February 2003 to January 2004 = 72
February 2004 to January 2005 = 32

Decrease in injuries = 56%

Prisoner/Suspect Injuries

February 2003 to January 2004 = 318
February 2004 to January 2005 = 207

Decrease in injuries = 35%

Note: February 2003 to January 2004 was the last full year *before* the use of TASERS
February 2004 to January 2005 was the first full year *after* the use of TASERS

Recent case

A recent CPD case where a TASER was used involved an extremely emotional hostage situation. A man was holding his former girlfriend hostage in her home and threatening her with physical harm. Police SWAT teams arrived to negotiate for the woman's release.

In an increasingly tense situation officers attempted to use beanbag shots to subdue the man who was wielding a knife. After repeated rounds, SWAT officers decided to use a TASER in an attempt to get the woman out of harm's way and to safety. The deployment of the TASER worked immediately.

"Before we had TASERS, and given the death threat to the hostage, this situation could have necessitated a police

officer having to shoot the man to free the woman being held against her will," says Baker. "In this case and many others, we have had more positive outcomes and fewer serious injuries because an officer has another way to diffuse a highly dangerous situation."

According to Captain Howard Rahtz, CPD Training Section Commander, the entire 2005 police recruit class volunteered to experience a TASER. "It was the general consensus among our newest police officers. They wanted to know first-hand what a TASER barb felt like as well as how quickly a TASER could immobilize someone. The Police Chief, Public Information Officer Lieutenant Kurt Byrd and I, as well as many other police

officers, have volunteered to experience the effects of a TASER for the same reasons," Rahtz concluded.

Most revolutionary in 35 years

"The TASER X26 is the only instrument to revolutionize an aspect of policing in the past 35 years," says Streicher. "The last piece of equipment to have a similar effect on police operations was the personally assigned portable radio system which occurred in the late 1960s, early '70s. We are seeing a significant reduction in injuries to our officers and to suspects. That is impressive and reaffirms what an important difference TASERS are making in our work." 🏆

Two New Assistant Chiefs Appointed



Assistant Police Chief
Michael Cureton

Two Cincinnati Police captains were appointed Assistant Chiefs by former City Manager Valerie Lemmie earlier this year. "After an exhaustive search, a diverse team of Cincinnatians found what many of us

already knew - that the Cincinnati Police Department trains and develops officers as well as any police department in America," said Mayor Charlie Luken.

Michael Cureton was sworn in on June 22. He had been serving as the commander of District 2. He graduated from the Police Academy in 1976. Cureton rose through the ranks and was promoted to captain in 1998. In his new position he holds the rank of lieutenant colonel and is in charge of the Resource Bureau, which includes Evidence/Property Management, Finance Management and Inspections.

Cureton holds a bachelor of arts in communications from Xavier University. He graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College in 1999 and the FBI National Academy Association in 2000. He and his wife, Jennifer, have five children.

"Being a police officer represents the ultimate in service to today's society," says Cureton. "We are faced with incredible challenges that keep our jobs interesting and encourage our creativity as problem solvers. To be selected as a peacemaker is an honorable and worthwhile position, a role in which I feel enormous pride."

James Whalen was sworn in on September 7. He had been serving as commander of District 1. Whalen began his career in 1982 as a police officer in the Metropolitan-Dade County Police Department (Miami, Florida). In 1986 he joined the CPD, rising through the ranks until he was promoted to captain in 2001. He now holds the rank of lieutenant colonel and is in charge of the Investigations Bureau which includes Central Vice Control and Criminal Investigation.

Whalen holds a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice/law enforcement from the University of Cincinnati and a law degree from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University.

He graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1999 and in 2004 completed the Certified Law Enforcement Executive Officer course. He and his wife, Colleen, have four children.

"Being one of the senior commanders here is the ultimate compliment and an exciting career challenge. I have an outstanding team of skilled professionals working in the Investigations Bureau and I am honored to be here," says Whalen. 🏆



Assistant Police Chief
James Whalen

School Resource Officers - Security, Mediation, Mentoring and Friendship

By Patricia Trubow

In 1968, Cincinnati became the third city in the nation to begin an innovative program designed to improve relationships between the police and young people, while making schools safer for all concerned.

"We have 11 School Resource Officers (SROs) today, who cover our 130 public, private and parochial schools. Despite all the ground they have to cover, it is a successful program," said Sergeant Dan Daum who supervises the unit.

Each School Resource Officer uses a different high school as "home base." The school provides an office, plus access to a phone and computer. The SRO often either starts or ends the day at the home base school. However, the SROs visit the other 12 or so schools each is responsible for according to the individual school's needs.

Building mutual trust

The program revolves around the concept of building relationships of mutual trust through open communication. The officers get to know the students by interacting with them on a regular basis.

"The kids confide in the officers and we have had numerous situations where one has told an SRO about a weapon someone has brought to school or perhaps a situation building towards an after-school fight. That has enabled the SRO to step in and stop it. But that only comes about by the officers being there, hanging around and talking with the kids regularly," says Daum.

Principal Sam Yates of Woodward Traditional High School praises SROs as an important resource for educators.

"The relationship goes beyond the daily police duty on the street. The SRO is here as a resource for a variety of things. They are knowledgeable and will diffuse situations before anything bad occurs. They do a great job talking to the kids one-on-one and I can tell you the kids are comfortable talking to them, confiding in them, because the officers have worked hard to build that relationship.

"We have had numerous times when the resource officer has turned a young person around, even inspired them to go onto college. It isn't just that they help

keep them out of trouble. They also mentor them and help with family and neighborhood situations, too."

Daum says Police Chief Thomas Streicher is a strong believer in the program and its positive impact in the community. "Since he's been chief, we have increased our number of SROs by three. It would be great to have one SRO for every school, but we cannot afford that. However, the additional SROs helped and our team is doing a fine job."

That sentiment is echoed by Bev Eby, Ed.D., principal of Dater High School. "Our Officer James Robb has been great. By his presence he has let kids know he is available to help them. He assists them in working through problems, such as if someone is bothering them.

"The kids feel very free to go to him. He also sits in on faculty and other meetings and has been a huge help. He thinks of things we don't. For example, he helped us solve traffic flow problems and get a crosswalk. That's a safety issue and his perspective saved us time and he did a better job of solving the problem than we would have done.

"Our SRO has frequently served as a mediator in discussions with families and has helped keep kids in school and avoid being arrested and missing school. That is a valuable service to the entire community..."

- Dr. Bev Eby, Principal

"Our SRO has frequently served as a mediator in discussions with families and in doing so has helped keep kids in school and avoid being arrested and missing school. That is a valuable service to the entire community when that happens," says Eby.

Ohio SRO of the Year

In April, Officer David Hamler was named the state of Ohio's School Resource



Cincinnati Police Department Officer David Hamler, Ohio's School Resource Officer of the Year.

Officer of the Year by the Ohio School Resource Officers Association. "We are really proud of this recognition," says Daum. "He has been an SRO for over 27 years now and has done an outstanding job."

Hamler was nominated for this prestigious award by parents and teachers at Shroder Paideia School in Kennedy Heights. He was recognized for his passion for his job and his competence at working with children, their parents and other family members to bring about positive changes in behavior, resolve problems and keep schoolchildren on the right track.

Hamler chuckles as he admits "Truth is, some of the parents and even some of the grandparents, of the kids I work with now, were kids I worked with years back.

"I like working with these young people and getting them to know I am here to help. I show them respect and they learn to show it back. It is great to go walking around town and have people say 'Hi Officer Hamler! You used to be my SRO! Do you remember me?'

"You know, grown men have introduced me to their wives and said 'This man arrested me for doing such and such.' I tell them not to go saying that, but have had them say 'That is what turned me around and made me go straight because you got on me.' Now that makes you feel good, when your work helps someone straighten

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Kids and Cops Bond at Police/Youth Live In Camp

This August 107 local children and 21 Cincinnati police officers took part in the annual "Police/Youth Live In" day camp program. The officers serve as camp counselors in the five-day program which is designed to build bonds of understanding and respect between inner city youngsters and the police. The goal is to establish positive associations with the children that will continue to flourish and grow after the camp experience has ended.

Campers, who are ages 10 to 12, have the opportunity to live, work and play together with the police officers in a variety of activities including swimming, boating, archery and other traditional camp programs. There are also group discussions which focus on self esteem, dealing with difference, conflict resolution, safety issues and civic engagement.

Promoting positive interaction

Police/Youth Live In was held at the Joy Outdoor Education Center in Clarksville this year. Established in 1969, the program is sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Cincinnati (NCCJGC) in cooperation with the Cincinnati Police Department.

According to Youth Services Section and DARE Officer Eric Smoot, "Camp gives us a chance to see the kids in a different element and gives them a chance to see us out of uniform."

The pre-teens accepted as campers are invited to participate for three consecutive years, each with a different goal. Officer Eric Dunn, District 2, says "Our program has specific goals for developing positive relationships. We want the 10-year-olds to embrace the idea 'cops are cool.' The 11-year-olds learn what it is that officers do. Our goal for the 12-year-olds is to open their eyes to policing as a possible career."



CPD Officer Kathy Thompson with camper Briana Griffin, age 12, at this summer's Police/Youth Live In camp co-sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice of Greater Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Police Department. Photo by Abby Myers.

Different police units visit daily to explain their work. This year, the Motorcycle, Bicycle, Canine and Mounted patrols, as well as the Special Weapons and Tactics unit, came to the camp. The Hamilton County Underwater Search and Rescue team used the camp pool to demonstrate their search methods.

With the help of the officer/counselors, the 12-year-old campers built a raft to float (successfully!) an officer across the camp lake. This group effort taught them a fundamental of police philosophy - how to work as a team to achieve a goal.

Cop Time

A popular daily event was the half-hour period called 'Cop Time.' One session campers played the role of police officers conducting a search of a residence, while the officers acted the parts of civilians whose home was being searched. Over lunch, the campers and officers discussed the ideal way

to handle such situations and the importance of respectful, cooperative behavior.

Open and honest communication is emphasized. Conflict resolution and problem-solving skills are as important a part of what the camp teaches as how to swim.

"We're friends!"

The campers thrive on the attention they receive from police counselors. According to seventh grader, Andrea, "The most fun thing about camp is hanging out with officers and knowing you're safe here." Her face lit up with a grin as she continued "They [the police] give us nicknames. We're friends!"

Officer Dunn, who has been a counselor for 10 years, says "I went to police camp as a kid, and this is my chance to give back. I know firsthand what this camp can do for the kids." 🍷

Summer intern Abby Myers contributed to this article.

School Resource Officers (continued)

out and make something of his life instead of tossing it away," says Hamler.

Several of the SROs work as coaches in area schools after they are done with their police work. Officer Robb coaches soccer at Western Hills and is assistant athletic director there. "And I coach bowling

at Seton High School — we won the state championship last year!" he says.

"It helps when the kids see us out-of-uniform. Some call me Coach Robb, others Officer Robb. It doesn't matter. They learn police are real people and it helps reinforce that we all care about them and like them, too. Anything we can do to build trust

helps. Trust helps keep the weapons out of schools and lets them know they can talk to us about anything, anything at all."

"That's what being an SRO is all about: keeping the schools safe, keeping the kids in school and helping stop problems before they start." 🍷

Summertime Camp Opportunities

For a number of years, CPD has partnered with different groups to provide summer camp opportunities for children and teenagers. The six major camps are listed below. A contact name and number is provided for parents who wish to learn how to have a child considered for a 2006 summer camp.

Anytown Youth Leadership Institute, for 15- to 18-year old high school students, stresses racial understanding, inter-religious respect and gender equality. This weeklong residential program is sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ); the CPD participates in the activities. Contact Megan Derksen, 513-381-4660.

Challenge Camp is a three-week day camp sponsored by Boy Scouts of America. It introduces boys, ages 10 to 13, to traditional scouting principles and is held in Miamitown on the campus of Cub World. CPD's Youth Services provides officers as mentors. Contact Gene Butler 513-961-2338.

Girl Scout Camp is sponsored by the Great Rivers Council of Girl Scouts of America and is held at Camp Butterworth in Landon. The camp is for inner city

girls, ages 6 to 12; CPD officers participate in camp activities with the girls, serving as positive role models. Contact Kellee Echeveria at 513-489-1025.

Hopkins Day Camp is sponsored by the CPD in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America. During the five-day camp, officers introduce inner city boys, ages 6 to 9, to a variety of outdoor activities such as fishing and archery, and serve as positive role models. Contact Gene Butler, 513-961-2338.

Police/Youth Live In, is a weeklong day camp held in Clarksville for inner city youngsters ages 10-12. In addition to traditional camp activities, the children learn decision making and problem solving skills. It is co-sponsored by the NCCJGC and CPD. Contact Lieutenant Larry Powell at 513-352-2972.

River Trek is for youth ages 13 to 17. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Morgan's Canoe Livery and the CPD work cooperatively to deliver an exciting program. River Trek teaches participants to work as a team. The campers make new friends and learn about nature and the river's history. A trip down the Little Miami River is made in canoes and kayaks, with camping along the way. Contact Becky Smith, City Recreation Department, 513-352-4031.

DARE CONTINUES TO CHANGE LIVES

By Judith Bogart

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program in Cincinnati has been educating youth about the risks associated with drug and alcohol usage for more than 20 years. It teaches students how to confidently refuse offers to indulge in drug activity and about the hazards of violence and the benefits of positive decision-making. It also teaches participants how to recognize people who may be using drugs.

The core curriculum is typically 10 weeks long and primarily for fifth grade students. (National surveys show that children 12 and under are 80 percent more likely to report to an adult other children who are in possession of drugs.) Emphasizing decision-making, the students learn how to resist temptation and remove themselves from negative environments. They even deal with getting past negative peer pressure in order to create new, positive peer pressure.

Topics covered in a typical DARE class by the Cincinnati Police Department's six DARE officers include:

- The Health Effects of Tobacco on Your Body and Your Brain
- The Health Effects of Marijuana on Your Body and Your Brain
- The Health Effects of Alcohol on Your Body and Your Brain
- The Health Effects of Inhalants on Your Body and Your Brain
- Facts about Tobacco Use and Marijuana Use
- Facts about Alcohol Use and Inhalant Use

Fifth grade students receive DARE t-shirts as part of their graduation ceremony and teachers normally receive a coffee mug or another gift with the DARE Logo for their participation in the program. The remaining non-fifth grade students receive pencils, stickers, and other items attractive to youngsters displaying the DARE Logo.

"The influence of DARE goes beyond learning how to say no to drugs"
– Principal Mike Kirry

Teachers "rave about the program"

Teachers at Midway School in Westwood "rave about the program," says Principal Mary Ann Bernier. "They always have a tremendous response from the parents, who show up in large numbers for the celebration at the end of the program each year."

During the 2004-2005 School Year, DARE officers provided directed DARE instruction to 8,352 students in 64 public and private schools in Cincinnati. The DARE Unit continues to receive requests to teach the program at schools that are new to Cincinnati and schools that had the program at one time, but lost it due to circumstances beyond their control.

The DARE Unit has never been asked to terminate teaching the program by any school or organization.

"The influence of DARE goes beyond learning how to say no to drugs," says Mike Kirry, principal of St. Clare School in College Hill. "Officer Michelle Richmond has provided an excellent program by getting to know the students and giving them a chance to know her. Now the students not only know and understand what the police are all about, they trust them to help when there is trouble or when they have questions."

In addition to working within the schools, Cincinnati DARE officers address local issues related to perceived gang activity and its associated violence. Operated by the Youth Services Unit of the CPD, the unit's commander, Sergeant William Bell, says that DARE officers fill numerous requests from community organizations for presentations outside of the classroom. These organizations include community sports organizations, faith-based groups, non-profit drug and violence prevention groups, and parent groups.

DARE has been around since 1984. Thus, the CPD now has police officers who went through the program themselves as children.

The six-person team has curriculum available for all grade levels and is available to help any school on request. For more information, contact Sergeant William Bell at 513-352-3514. 🏠

The Nose Knows

Drug Enforcement Canine Teams

By Patricia Trubow

Officer John Mendoza and his German Shepherd partner, Caesar, and Officer Mike Brogan and his Golden Retriever partner, Radar, are the two canine teams that are an integral part of the Street Corner Unit. Both partnerships have been involved in numerous searches that have resulted in the two dogs identifying illegal drugs with their highly discerning noses. Confiscations have been as much as hundreds of pounds of illegal narcotics.

The dogs are trained to identify by odor four distinct illegal narcotics: marijuana, heroin, cocaine and methamphetamines. They also detect other drugs that have one of those four odors such as hashish, Ecstasy, brown heroin and black tar heroin.

"In a search, the dog uses his nose to find the narcotic. When Caesar locates the closed area where it is, then it is my job to go in and find it," says Mendoza.

Each dog/officer team trains together in an intensive three-month program, plus has on-going weekly training sessions. Both officer and dog must successfully pass a state certification before they can hit the streets together.

"The dogs must be trained, certified and reliable. Our team is recertified by Ohio every two years."

Odors dissipate in a cone shape. A dog searching an area will actively sniff left to right, up and down, zeroing in on the spot where the odor is most intense.

"Dogs have an incredible sense of smell. No matter how creative a drug trafficker may be in trying to disguise the odor, our dogs are very successful in detecting and leading us to it. People are always amazed when they watch them in action."

When asked why he wanted to be involved in drug searches, Mendoza answers "Every police officer has seen firsthand the devastating effect of drugs in our society. They destroy people, little by little, trapping them in increasingly serious criminal behaviors to support their habit. Each time we interrupt the flow and confiscate some narcotics, it helps make the community safer, the streets safer.

"When Caesar or Radar helps us find illegal drugs, I have no doubt that they are saving lives." 🐾



Officer John Mendoza and Caesar in front of the 736 lbs. of marijuana the team found and confiscated earlier this year.



CPD 99th Recruit Class

The Cincinnati Police Department's 99th Recruit Class began its training on September 26.

The 31 class members range in age from 22 to 44; 13 of the class have college degrees, with another 12 having completed some college work. Nine of the recruits have served in one of the U.S. Armed Forces, with three having served in Iraq. Four of the group have previous law enforcement experience and one has participated in the CPD cadet/intern program.

Their curriculum is an intensive 24 weeks of classroom, practical and physical training. Those who successfully complete the training will be commissioned at the March 10, 2006, graduation ceremony. 🐾

CPD's Patrol Canine Squad Among Top in the Nation

By Patricia Trubow

When it comes to effective and efficient crime control, one of the Cincinnati Police Department's (CPD) many bright spots is its Patrol Canine Squad. According to the unit's supervisor, Sergeant Dan Hils, the nine canine/human teams that comprise this squad are among the best in the nation. In fact, CPD's Patrol Canine Unit won first place in the U.S. Police Canine Association's annual team competition in 2003 and 2004.

"We came in third this year," says Sergeant Hils. "Maximus, who had been one of our top two or three dogs and was the canine partner of Officer John Neal, broke his leg recently while doing a building search and has now been retired. Had he been with us, we would have had an excellent chance to take first place for a third straight year."

"We also did well in individual competition. Specialist Dave Kennedy and Scout came in third and Officer Tony White and Dakota came in eighth out of 109 competitors in the individual competition."

The Patrol Canine Squad performs three basic functions: tracking, building searches and article searches.

"About 60 percent of our work is tracking criminal suspects who are running from the police. This is a joint effort between our squad and the districts and specialty units such as Street Corner. When someone is trying to hide, the street police are at a tactical disadvantage, particularly when it is dark. But a trained dog can track and locate the person," says Hils.

"Unlike what television shows lead you to believe, tracking cannot be done days later by giving the dog a sock to sniff. Our dogs can, however, track on a trail that is two or three hours old and we have had them follow trails for over a mile. They track the most recent human scent to have gone through an area. They will also scent discriminate to a certain degree. That means they will stay on the scent of the person they are tracking and not be distracted by someone else who has crossed the track."

When dogs are tracking, their human partners have them on a long lead, gener-

ally one that is 30-feet in length. This is not to control the dogs, but to help the officers keep up with the dogs. "The dogs can move through heavy brush and across open areas a lot faster than we can. They are highly trained in obedience and will follow the handlers' commands as well off the leash as on the leash. The leash helps us stay with them. They kind of drag us along," he says.

Hils notes that tracking is sometimes also used to find lost individuals, particularly when exposure to cold is a threat. "We are not called to do that often, but it does happen."

Building searches account for 25 percent of the work. "The dogs can find where someone is hiding. In these instances they are off lead and use their noses to find the person."

Article searches count for the remaining 15 percent of the unit's activity. "Suspects will toss guns, knives, stolen goods and so on. The dogs are taught to find the items with recent human scent."

A trained police canine's presence can stop suspects from running away. "Most often just the threat of a dog being sent after a suspect will get the person to stop and give up," says Hils.

The dogs used in the Patrol Canine unit are all German Shepherds and come from the Czech Republic. They are generally between 12 and 18 months of age when they start their three-month training program with their human partners. In addition, throughout their careers together, each team has a weekly training session.

The training program is conducted by Specialist David Kennedy, who is

considered one of the top dog trainers in the area. "We have other jurisdictions come to him for assistance and guidance in their programs on a regular basis."

"Specialist Kennedy and Officer Robert Boyce also trained the Central Vice Control Section's two drug dogs," says Hils.

The officers who handle the dogs all have children. "It helps for the dogs to see there are two sides to life. When the dog goes home, he sees the family. It helps them relax, socializes them and teaches them there are times they do not need to be vigilant. It also helps when we take them on demonstrations because they have learned from family life that most people are 'friends,' not suspects."

Officer Tim Pappas, whose canine partner is Laser, notes that "When my family and I go on vacation, Laser goes along with us. He is part of our family life and has a great time with us."

The competition that assesses the dogs and their partners is structured to simulate the work police normally face.

"Dogs are assessed on the precision of their response to commands. The competition includes obedience work, obstacles, article searches, apprehension work and apprehension with gunfire. It is all about control of the dogs and their ability to follow orders. The competition does not include tracking because of the difficulty in having equally difficult tracking courses for all competitors. If they did, I am sure we'd be ranked on top. Many police departments do not do as much training and tracking as we do. We regularly track and are very good at it," says Hils. 🐾



Working together - the name of the game

By Judith Bogart and Laura Carr



From the left: Sergeant. Joe Lolley, Cheviot Police Department; Dave Miller, CEO, Buddy Rogers Music, Joan Beizel, Hamilton County Sheriff Department; Jackie Leroy, Wyoming Chief of Police; Sergeant Chuck White, CPD; Jack Riechwein, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; Nan Bongiani, Indian Hill Ranger and Rodney Wright, local barber.
Photo by Laura Carr

When a police officer from Gulf Manor was killed in a traffic accident not long ago, everyone in that police department wanted to attend his funeral. To help in such an uncommon situation, the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) arranged to patrol Gulf Manor for 12 hours that day.

Unusual? Not at all. It's an example of how this area's law enforcement agencies regularly cooperate.

Most citizens take this cooperation for granted. For instance, when Riverfest and Tall Stacks draw crowds of thousands to the Riverfront, the CPD's Event Planning Unit, commanded by Lieutenant Mark Vennemeier, works with numerous agencies such as the Cincinnati Fire Department, the U.S. Coast Guard, Traffic Engineering and law enforcement agencies from Northern Kentucky to address traffic issues, coordinate the closing of bridges and plan for a critical incident. Should an incident occur, a unified command post, with a representative from the various agencies, is set up to exchange information quickly, formulate a plan and coordinate a response.

The CPD's Criminal Investigation Section helps many other departments in the area, too. Their photo enhancement equipment is the most sophisticated in the

area and the CPD is happy to assist other law enforcement agencies in trying to identify criminals from fuzzy and far-away photographs.

Law enforcement agencies in Hamilton County and beyond have been working together for years to make the Greater Cincinnati area safer and friendlier. All of these efforts are supported by the Hamilton County Police Association, (HCPA) headed by Chief Charles Lindsey of Harrison.

According to Lindsey, "Hamilton County is unique in the U.S. in the level of cooperation among the 44 different law enforcement agencies within our county. I believe this improves the overall level of police services to all the communities."

Founded in 1937, HCPA's many initiatives have paid off in better law enforcement for the entire county. Currently the HCPA offers training for all police officers in firearms use and in a wide variety of other topics. In addition, it provides a 40-person honor guard for special occasions, an underwater search and rescue team, a police clergy team available 24/7 and a 50-person SWAT team to cover areas not covered by the SWAT teams of the CPD or Sheriff's Department.

A unique inter-agency venture is the popular rock and roll band, "Most

Wanted." Its membership includes officers from different agencies as well as other musicians with ties to law enforcement. The band is an interesting study in both diversity and interagency cooperation. The members' ethnicities, gender, age, rank and musical preferences run the gamut and create a musical collaboration that could serve as a business best practice model.

Sergeant Chuck White of the CPD is one of the vocalists. White says the concept for Most Wanted grew out of a desire to have children and young adults in the community experience positive interactions with police officers. "We wanted them to realize that police officers can have fun too. We don't just arrest people and put them in jail. We have families, we listen to music, we can sing, dance and have fun just like they do."

Dave Miller, CEO/owner, Buddy Rogers Music plays lead and rhythm guitars. "Buddy Rogers Music Company supports the Music in Schools program. I knew Most Wanted played at schools so my support of their efforts was a natural fit. The fact that I also get to play with the band is an added benefit." Miller supplies the sound system and musical instruments for Most Wanted. 🎵

Award Recipients

This year several members of the Cincinnati Police Department family have received awards for special achievements. We are proud of their accomplishments which all contribute to a better and safer community.

GREATER CINCINNATI CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU SPIRIT OF CINCINNATI AWARDS, FEBRUARY 1:

Captain Vince Demasi - Champion Award

Captain James Whalen - Pinnacle Award for Outstanding Service
(Whalen is now a Lieutenant Colonel)

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF CINCINNATI, FEBRUARY 9:

Officer Dionne Winfrey - 2005 Officer of the year

OHIO SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, APRIL 4:

Officer David Hamler - Ohio's School Resource Officer of the Year

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK AWARDS, MAY 4:

Officer Patrick Galligan - Ohio Attorney General's Distinguished Law Enforcement Award for Valor

Officer Katrina Neal - Hamilton County Police Association's Robert Hovater Award for Valor

THE HAMILTON COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY'S POLICE APPRECIATION AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, MAY 19:

Officer John Mercado - Act of Bravery

Specialist Michael Hudepohl - Contribution to Law Enforcement

Officer Terrence Forte and Specialist Clifton Mitchell - Work with Children

Specialist Jennifer Luke - Best Overall Investigative Job Leading to Crime Solution

Officer Jennifer Ernst - Superior Achievement in Professionalism

Wendy Jodice, RN (wife of Officer Cary Jodice) - Citizen Award for Heroic Action

ROTARY CLUB OF CINCINNATI LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS, JULY 28:

Specialist James Adams - Valor/Hero Award

Officer Timothy Bley - Valor/Hero Award

Officer Kathleen Gober - Valor/Hero Award

Senior Criminalist Clarence "Sid" Caesar - Career Enhancement Award

Specialist Michael Phillips - Superior Achievement Award

Officer Tina Ziegler - Superior Achievement Award

Records Section Director Vanessa McMillan-Moore - Administration Award

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1012 Ludlow Avenue, 45223
513-352-3578

The CPD strives for responsive and courteous service. If you would like to contact the Police Department about your experience with a member of our organization, please feel free to call us. In addition, you may always contact NCCJGC offices at 513-381-4660 with your suggestions or concerns. Both the CPD and the NCCJGC are dedicated to serving the citizens of Cincinnati.

Report to the Community

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Joan Tenhundfeld, *The Enquirer*



Officer Patrick Galligan and
Officer Katrina Neal



Standing left to right are Specialist
Clifton Mitchell, Officer Terrence Forte,
Specialist Jennifer Luke and Officer
Jennifer Ernst. Seated is Specialist
Michael Hudepohl.



Wendy Jodice, RN and Officer John Mercado



Rotary Club award recipients (left to right)
Officer Tina Ziegler, Specialist Mike Phillips,
Records Director Vanessa McMillan-Moore
and Officer Tim Bley.